

## **Rutland City Police Commission**

February 9, 2015

Present: Chairman Larry Jensen, Commissioners Sean Sargeant, Luther Brown and Michelle Fairbrother

Not present: Vice Chairman Tom Calcagni

Chairman Jensen calls the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Motion made by Commissioner Sargeant and seconded by Commissioner Brown to accept the January 12, 2015 minutes without any additions or corrections. Motion passed.

### **Public Comment**

Bill Lucas addresses the concerns of the residents at the Bardwell House and pedestrian safety. Discussions held. The crosswalks are only activated by pushing the walk button. Lt. Geno to look at the recommendations regarding that intersection at the light.

### **Communication from the Union**

None

### **Sergeant's Report**

Acting Chief David Covell indicates he is pleased with the job that Detective Sergeant Lachance has been doing in BCI. Det. Sgt. Lachance indicates that there has recently been a lot going on in his unit. He indicates that Cpl. Delpha has been promoted for the vacant night sergeant's position and Det. Cpl. Mosher is filling his spot. Det. Sgt. LaChance indicates they are still down one position. General investigators include: Det. Cpl. Mosher, Det. Cpl. Gorruso and Cpl. Dumas is at the CFAC unit waiting to fill his spot and Evidence Technician Laurie Walters. The hiring process continues.

Det. Sgt. LaChance indicates that Cpl. Dumas had worked very hard on the Spanos case that went to verdict last month, indicating that the trial went well. They are now preparing for the Sullivan case set for trial in March. A new camera and copiers in the lab for Evidence Tech Walters and new jackets that haven't been replaced for 15 years have been received. Sgt. Sheldon is working on BCI cars with lights and equipment. Det. Sgt. LaChance indicates he is looking forward to working with the State's Attorney, Rose Kennedy. Evidence Tech Walters has been working hard toward a new policy for evidence procedures along with clearing out older cases. She will be participating in an on line evidence specialist training soon. Upcoming trainings include: Det. Cpl. Mosher attending a human trafficking training; Det. Sgt. LaChance attending a Leadership Police Organization (LPO) school from July to October. They have been busy with backgrounds and have three more to do. They are trying to take on more cases for follow upon the investigative end for the officers. Interdiction details are still being done by Sgt. Matt Prouty. Discussions held. They are working on a firearm policy and updating forms. Sgts. Prouty and Delpha will be attending domestic violence training along with the domestic violence partner, Jennifer Bowe.

### **Budget Report**

Acting Chairman indicates they are about 59% of the budget; pretty much on track for the rest of the year, advising that they will keep an eye on things for the next 5 months and to keep an eye on overtime, talked about ways to keep overtime at a minimum. Sgt. Sheldon is working on overtime expenditures when it comes to training, had to do a lot at the end of the year to get it in

to meet the guidelines that occurred overtime then. A mapping of the training schedule is being done to complete trainings during normal shifts for the whole year.

Cpl. Souza has moved from nightshift to dayshift to keep costs under. They are now expanding and using senior officers as supervisors.

### **Mapping Updates**

David Harrington is present via Skype giving a different reporting format that he has come up with after speaking with the Chief, Captain and Brad GoodHale. He is using pivot tables and looking at repeat addresses, all incidents, criminal and non criminal incidents along with traffic. It is a work in progress and indicates he wanted to share it with the Police Commission to get their point of view if it works and he is open to discussion. He first shows the repeat addresses from the pivot table and gives an explanation, next he shows a dashboard report which will enable to show the top 50 calls for service instead of top 20 or 25. He shows an example chart for service and incident report trends. Discussions held. After reviewing these reports it was indicated that this reporting also shows noncriminal involvements as well and after review you will be able to direct or put the resources to good use. The last report he shows are the incident reports showing the individual crime types categorizing Part I and Part II crime data.

### **Chief's Report**

Officers Cleveland and Barrell have started the Vermont Police Academy and both are doing well. Acting Chief Covell indicates that he has received good feedback from instructors, especially on Officer Cleveland. Officer Meytin has completed FTO and begins on his own tomorrow. He will be transferred to Dayshift II. Officer Clemmons is on ghost ride, which is a part of the FTO process where the FTO shadows the officer. It is anticipated that he will be on his own next week. They are working to improve press releases being released within 3 days of the incident with the help of Sgt Sheldon restructuring that position. Officer Angelo who is a new hire, will begin on Monday with a two week orientation phase and start the part time academy in March. Cpl. Lorman and the Rutland Mental Health partner, Alicia Armstrong will be attending an FBI crisis negotiation training. Sgt. Stevens has stepped down from the crisis negotiation unit and Sgt. Sheldon is holding interviews to replace him. David Harrington's presentation showed a 25% increase in responses to alarms and CO Emily Leinoff has come up with a proposal after reviewing the alarm situation that will clean up the alarm data and reporting data. They will be looking at the ordinance of charging for repeat false alarm reporting.

Acting Chief Covell indicates he has been approached by the VT State Police with reference to their consolidation plans and the need for a new holding station for Temporary/Final Relief from Abuse Orders and Arrest Warrants from a 24/7 dispatch center. He will put together a committee to meet with the State Police to discuss the impact. Discussions held.

There is a Project Vision meeting this Thursday night at 6:00pm to be held at the Middle School.

Captain Tucker appeared on PEG TV to highlight Project Vision.

Chief Baker has been recognized by the legislature for his superb leadership on the house resolution that was passed. Director Baker was at the HIDA meeting in Washington DC and has brought up Rutland City and our efforts are being used as a model for the country to combat the drug problems.

Chairman Jensen inquires of Lt. Geno of establishing a new "James Baker" award to be given to the police officer that does the most to promote community policing.

Chairman Jensen indicates that the position in the Project Vision that Sam Capogrossi had held, is not being funded and discussions held as to what they can do to promote this position.

Chairman Jensen would like meetings of the shifts to be scheduled, two mornings and two afternoons as to the protocol that they will be following for the recruitment of a new Chief and to emphasis that they want someone to carry on what Chief Baker has started.

A motion to go into executive session was made by Commissioner Sargeant and seconded by Commissioner Brown. Motion passed.

**Executive Session**

The executive session began, present with police commission members, Acting Chief Covell, Commanders Tucker and Geno to discuss matters that if disclosed publicly at this time, could place the City, the Department or an employee of the department at risk.

Submitted by:

Nancy Manning

cc: Police Commission  
City Clerk Henry Heck  
Board of Aldermen  
Union President Lynn Gallipo